

Public access media
TV - aka local
community media and
commercial free
media TV- which are
the last digital
"open space" is
being overpowered
and smothered by
these companies at
the size they are
now!

All over the country
the existing cable
companies are
withholding
franchise fees,
failing to provide
what's in their
existing contracts,
not negotiating for
new contracts with
appropriate public
input, etc.

These are OUR Public
airwaves, and the
cable business'
make an enormous
amount of money from
using our airwaves -
make them bigger and
they will negotiate
with us with greater
grace?

I doubt it.

NO WAY should Giant
cable companies be
permitted to grow

larger. Further consolidation in the cable industry is a clear violation of horizontal ownership rules that must be re-established to serve the public interest.

The concentration of power and control over distribution of media is a growing problem in this country. Though we have more channels available than ever before, they are under the operation of a handful of giant corporations.

If Comcast and Time Warner are allowed to merge with Adelphia, the two companies will control nearly 50 percent of the national market. This level of concentration in the cable industry will lead to higher consumer rates and lower quality service.

Basic cable is way too expensive now. If we're going to say that there's "enough" info on all the available tv and broadband channels, you better be sure that the super majority of Americans can afford cable!

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the "deregulation" of cable, consumers have seen their rates jump an average of 59 percent — with some areas experiencing even more dramatic increases.

The quality of customer service often reflects the fact that cable television is not a competitive market.

Meanwhile, the cost of cable modem service remains out of reach for many households, holding constant for years

and selectively underserving rural and low-income Americans. The American people are watching the digital divide widen even as the need for access to high-speed networks increases.

More San Franciscans watch Public Access Ch. 29 than the A & E channel (and the quality of the Public Access shows are fantastic)! AND so poorly funded it's shameful. The federal laws prohibit SF from really negotiating a good new contract with Comcast now and Comcast just bullies the City and County!

Comcast at the size it is now will take out how many millions of dollars out of the pockets of San Franciscans in exchange for cable services - and San Franciscans get to choose what local interests on their cable service??

Public Access must be fully funded, in both capital and operations to be the public open space that is the ESSENTIAL concept of Public Access TV.

Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments.

In many communities, the truly independent sources of local news, information and culture come from the public channels produced at the local access centers.

Unfortunately, local channels lack the resources to produce the programming that

citizens want and need.

The last thing we need is to reward the anti-competitive actions of cable giants by permitting greater consolidation in ownership, reducing competition, and encouraging more of the same.